



# Little River Currents

## MEGWAA EZHIWEBAAK

## Good Swan vs. Bad Swan?

### Reintroducing a Threatened Species to the Reservation

Beautiful, elegant, graceful, these are all good words to describe any swan, but to some the Mute swan doesn't bring these words to mind. The large population of the Mute swan is creating a challenge for those who are trying to preserve wetland ecosystems and reintroduce the Trumpeter swan to Michigan.

The Mute swan, commonly seen in waters around the Reservation, was introduced to Michigan from Europe by a man from Emmet County in 1919. Since then the Mute swan population has boomed. The numbers of the invasive mute swans far outweigh those of the native Trumpeter. The Trumpeter

swan was all good words to describe any swan, but to some the Mute swan doesn't bring these words to mind. The large population of the Mute swan is creating a challenge for those who are trying to preserve wetland ecosystems and reintroduce the Trumpeter swan to Michigan. By 1932, only 70 Trumpeter swans were known to exist in North



Although they can't fly yet, the swans will soon be in the air.



Mark Knee, from the LRBOI Natural Resource Department, releases a Trumpeter Swan.

America. We now know that several thousand Trumpeter swans survived in remote areas of Canada and Alaska.

In an effort to bring back the Trumpeter, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has released eight of these birds on Tribal properties. They were released in June and it's hoped that they will stay and reproduce on the Reservation.

Trying to keep these Trumpeter swans on the Reservation may not be easy

however. Due to the large numbers of aggressive Mute swans, living space is in short supply for the Trumpeter, not to mention food. Although they may look similar, Mute swans and Trumpeter swans have entirely different eating habits. The way the Mute swan eats has a negative effect on the other.

The Mute swan, the one with the orange beak, basically rips it's food from the water.

Swan Story continued on page 8

## 10th Annual Jiingtamok

### Pow Wow Dancing, Drums, Art & More



To the left a young dancer displays a beautiful shawl, above LRB Elder Georgianna Adamczak gets some braiding help from Erma Shriner.

Over the 4th of July weekend, more than 200 dancers gathered at the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Gathering Grounds to attend the 10th Annual Jiingtamok presented by the LRBOI Cultural Preservation Committee (CPC).

Record numbers of people attended and the parking lots were full; some cars even had to park near the Gathering Ground entrance.

New Little River Princesses were crowned, Chelsea Bromley ran uncontested to become Miss Little River while Christine Verheek won the title of Junior Miss Little River. The new princesses replaced Renee Diehlman and Nancy Bardy who both offered a wonderful giveaway for all the princess contestants.

Overall the gathering was positive and fun. Several people shared good thoughts and comments to help make next years event even better. Look for more pictures of the Pow Wow inside this issue of Currents.







## Outlook from the Ogema

Boozhoo,

On July 5th, 500,690 signatures were turned in to the Board of Canvassers to qualify an amendment to the Michigan State Constitution for the November 2nd election that would require a state wide and local county wide vote before any additional state regulated gaming can be introduced. Three-hundred and seventeen thousand (317,000) valid signatures are needed to be on the ballot. We will be receiving a decision on the valid signatures soon. The campaign called "Let Voters Decide" has the possibility of ending the State of Michigan's legislature from finalizing the "Racino" legislation.

As I have stated before, the Racino legislation potentially violates the compact we have with the state. Also, other forms of gaming regulated by the state have had voter approval. The lottery required a statewide vote. The Detroit Casinos required a statewide vote and a local vote. The Racino bill would have authorized up to 18,000 additional slots without voter approval.

Currently, the Michigan Senate, aware efficient on how we use Tribal Re- that over half a million people have sources. Our Membership should have taken the time to sign the petitions, is at least two plans to vote on, rather reconsidering their approval of the than focusing on just one. Future hearings on Per Capita will be conducted immediately after the Tribal Council Racino bill. The Michigan House is still pushing forward their version of the Racino bill. The issue is not quite dead; however the Racino bill has been described as being on 'life support'. I want to thank Tribal Council for their support in gathering the signatures and making sure that we pass the Let Voters Decide amendment. I am asking all Tribal members to vote yes on the amendment in November.

I have received feedback on the Draft Per Capita Distribution plan. I want to remind everyone that the figures used are estimates from 2004 figures. Actual distributions will depend on fifty percent of net governmental gaming revenues divided by the number of eligible Tribal Members. This figure will change year to year as Revenues change and the number of Tribal Members change. It is important to work through the information. To be certain, with a Per Capita Distribution, the Tribal Government will have change, increased revenues and become more

Members of the Tribal Council and I were able to meet with Tribal Members during the Little River Pow Wow and discuss the Reservation Restoration Plan. We will be discussing the issue during the Membership meeting on Saturday, September 11, 2004 at the Little River Casino Resort. This year we will begin the meeting at 10:00 am with a change in format as requested by the Membership. Also, the Elders will be having their annual conference at the same time. At midnight, we are planning a celebration for the Tribe's 100% percent management of the Casino Resort. I hope that all of you have a chance to attend this historic occasion.

Lee

*Little River Currents is published monthly by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Currents welcomes all Letters to the Editor and other Tribal member submissions but does not guarantee placement nor do published submissions necessarily reflect the views of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. All photographs placed within the newspaper are the property of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. For back issues, article or photo reprints contact the Currents office.*

*Submission Guidelines: Artwork, photos, and poetry will be sent back to you if you send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to return it in. Please include your full name, Tribal identification number and current mailing address with all submissions. If submissions are sent on behalf of a child who is a descendent of a Tribal member, please include the parent or guardian Tribal identification number. If sending photos or artwork please include a description of the subject as well.*

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## National FSA American Indian Credit Outreach Initiative

Aanii Nijikwenh,

Are you an American Indian farmer, rancher, or youth (10-20 years) searching for financing for an agricultural business or project? If yes, I'm pleased to introduce the National FSA American Indian Credit Outreach Initiative (ICOI). My name is Teresa Magnuson and I am the ICOI's Outreach Liaison for Michigan and Indiana. I have the honor of assisting tribal people secure the financing necessary to fulfill their agricultural business needs and dreams.

The National FSA American Indian Credit Outreach Initiative Program stems from an innovative cooperative agreement with the National Tribal Development Association and the USDA's Farm Service Agency. The ICOI is a creative approach designed to address the unique agriculture credit needs of the American Indian community. The project incorporates outreach, education, and loan application prepa-

ration services to ensure American Indian farmers, ranchers, and youth have access to the full range of FSA credit opportunities.

If you are interested in learning more about the National FSA American Indian Credit Outreach Initiative or would like to schedule a presentation for your organization or department, please contact me as soon as possible!

Megwetch,  
Teresa Magnuson  
Outreach Liaison, Michigan & Indiana  
National Tribal Development Association  
4470 Cricket Ridge Dr. Apt. 202  
Holt, MI 48842  
phone: (517) 694-7784 fax: (517) 694-7786  
teresa@indiancreditoutreach.com  
www.indiancreditoutreach.com



## The Members Assistance Department Programs

### Low Income Energy Program

This program is designed to resolve an energy crisis and return a member or the household back within the household budget. A complete application and supporting documentation must be submitted for eligibility determination for assistance.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Enrolled Member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- 18 years of age or the parent or legal guardian of a member who has not yet reached the age of 18.
- Tribal member is a permanent member of the household.
- Household income does not exceed the income guideline of 150% of the Federal Poverty Guideline.
- Meet one or more of the definitions of Energy Crisis;
  - Shut off notice
  - Denial for assistance
  - Budgeting situation which affects the ability to pay energy bill

Maximum amount of Assistance: \$200.00

### Home Repair Program

This program assists in the repair of substandard home conditions. The Home Repair Program will assist in the repair of substandard conditions in electrical, roof, heating, plumbing systems and in some cases, weatherization.

A complete application and supporting documentation must be submitted for eligibility determination for assistance.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Enrolled Member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- Tribal member is the homeowner and a permanent member of the household.
- Home is located in the continental United States.
- Household income does not exceed the income guidelines.
- Home meets the definition of substandard condition

Maximum amount of assistance: \$6000.00

### LIHEAP Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

This is a grant funded program that is available to assist Tribal members experiencing home heating energy crisis.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Member is a permanent member of the household.
- Reside in the nine-county service areas (Lake, Muskegon, Oceana, Kent, Wexford, Manistee, Newaygo, Mason, Ottawa Counties).
- The household income does not exceed 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Meet the definition of Energy Crisis.
  - Received a shut off notice from utility vendor
  - Received denial for services from another agency
  - Household has budgeting situation which affects the ability to pay energy bill.

Amount of Assistance will vary according to individual percentage of median income.

### Well and Septic Program

The Well and Septic program is funded by the Indian Health Services. This program provides sanitation facilities (Well and Septic) to Tribal members in need of assistance who reside within the nine county service area.

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- Enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- Reside within the nine-county service areas. (Lake, Muskegon, Oceana, Kent, Wexford, Manistee, Newaygo, Mason, Ottawa Counties).
- Home must be the primary residence of the applicant.
- Ownership of site must be in the Tribal member's name.

Assistance is seasonal and limited to available funding.

### Community Well Being and Support

This program is designed to assist in the development of surveys to gather information from the membership for the review of existing programs and development of future programs to provide assistance to members.

#### Application Processing:

Surveys will be mailed to the member's address on file with Enrollment on or around September 1<sup>st</sup> of the program year. Completed surveys must be received on or before November 1<sup>st</sup> of the program year. Surveys received after November 1<sup>st</sup> are not eligible for assistance.

#### Eligibility requirements:

- Enrollment as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of the program year.
- Be the legal guardian of a member.
- Checks will be mailed to the address on file with Enrollment.

Amount of Assistance: \$500.00 per member

### Elder's Assistance Program

The Elders Assistance Program has been developed to promote the general welfare of the Elder population by assisting Tribal Elders in addressing their need for sufficient health care, housing, utilities, transportation, safety, dignity and quality of life.

#### Qualified Tribal Elder:

- Enrolled member of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- Age 55 or older as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the program year.

#### Application Processing:

Applications will be mailed out on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the program year and will be processed for payment as they are received. Applications must be received no later than December 15<sup>th</sup> of the program year.

#### Amount of Assistance:

- \$2000.00 to each Elder who is living and is 55 years of age but less than 70 years of age as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the program year.
- \$3000.00 to each Elder who is living and is 70 years of age or older as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the program year.

Checks will be mailed to the last known address on file with Enrollment.

If you would like more information about these programs or to request an application please call our office at 231-723-8288 or toll-free 888-723-8288 ext. 6864 to speak with Amber Moore or ext. 6869 to speak with Lee A. Iverson.

The **Enrollment Department** would like to let the membership know that we have 3,051 members as of June 30, 2004. We would also like to inform the membership that the Enrollment Department has new office hours. Our new hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and Wednesday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. We are also open during lunch time. We would like to make sure that all of the Tribal members either contact the Enrollment Department for a new Tribal ID without a picture or come in to our office to get a new picture Tribal ID. The Enrollment Department office is located at 1780 U.S. 31 South; the Tribal Community Center. The Enrollment Department can be contacted by calling (231) 723-8288, directly (231) 398-6713, or toll-free at (888) 723- 8288.



Commodities Department

Tips For Cutting Back On Sugar In Baking

Sugar in baking goods adds the sweet flavor that most people enjoy. Sugar in a recipe also helps the finished product stay fresh and moist, brown nicely and have a tender texture.

It is possible to maintain these characteristics in baking while cutting back on the amount of sugar in a recipe. Use 2/3 cup of sugar for each cup in the recipe for flavor, add vanilla or almond flavoring, increase amount of spice such as cinnamon or nutmeg. Add shredded, chopped, fresh or canned fruits or vegetables for moisture.

Here is a muffin recipe with no sugar using apple juice concentrate for sweetener:

- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ¾ cup whole wheat flour
- 1 egg
- ½ cup frozen unsweetened apple juice concentrate, thawed
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ¼ cup milk
- 1 ripe banana, mashed

Sift together all – purpose flour, baking powder, and salt. Stir in whole wheat. Blend egg, apple juice concentrated, oil, milk, and banana well. Combine ½ teaspoon salt, liquid and dry ingredients. Spoon into greased or lined muffin tin cups. Bake at 400 F. for 20 to 25 minutes. Makes 12 muffins. Could also be baked in loaf pan. Make muffin and add 1 cup chopped fresh or canned fruit to the mix before filling muffin tin cups. Peaches or blueberries are good!

Food Safety Word Search

Test your skills and see how many of these food safety terms you can find below ( circle each one ).

Bacteria	Chill	Clean
Cooking	Cutting board	Danger zone
Disinfect	Food safety	Germs
Hand washing	Hygiene	Illness
Microwave	Reheating	Separate
Spoil	Storage	Temperature

F	D	R	A	O	B	N	I	T	T	U	C	L	W	M
R	A	M	N	N	E	G	C	X	O	W	X	A	E	R
A	G	O	L	H	E	H	S	T	O	R	A	G	E	E
R	N	K	X	E	I	N	N	I	M	A	T	N	R	C
S	I	T	B	L	S	G	O	A	R	N	A	T	T	L
G	H	C	L	B	R	C	T	Z	T	I	R	L	E	E
E	S	E	Y	E	V	A	W	O	R	C	I	M	M	A
R	A	F	S	D	H	L	F	E	N	E	C	O	P	N
M	W	N	S	P	O	U	T	O	N	S	G	G	E	R
S	D	I	K	R	O	C	R	E	O	L	E	N	R	N
Q	N	S	M	D	A	I	I	G	M	R	T	I	A	H
X	A	I	R	B	N	G	L	N	A	T	A	T	T	D
O	H	D	F	K	Y	Q	L	I	E	N	R	A	U	A
L	P	R	V	H	E	C	L	K	R	P	A	E	R	L
E	Y	T	E	F	A	S	D	O	O	F	P	H	E	T
W	R	H	E	A	S	K	R	O	W	E	E	E	F	H
S	S	E	N	L	L	I	T	C	I	M	S	R	V	C

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

( FDPIR ) was created by congress in 1977 Food Stamp Act as an Alternative to the Food Stamp Program for Indian Reservations. The program offers commodities to low-income Native American households. No household may participate in both the Commodity Food Program and Food Stamps, but eligible households can switch from one program to the other at the end of each month.

Eligibility and participation for FDPIR are based on application and certification requiring Tribal status, income and resources qualification, in determining who is eligible to receive commodities. There is a guideline on how much income each household can have to be eligible for the program. We are federally funded by the USDA and they set the regulations and guidelines for all commodity programs.

Guideline Eligibility Chart

Household size and Household Income

1. \$ 883.00	2. \$ 1,144.00
3. \$ 1,406.00	4. \$ 1,668.00
5. \$ 1,944.00	6. \$ 2,228.00
7. \$ 2,490.00	8. \$ 2,751.00

For each additional member add \$262.00

Warehouse provides these food items:

Mixed Vegetables, Bush Beans, Butter, Corn Squares, Green Beans, Refried Beans, Vegetable Oil, Toasted Oats, Carrots, Lima Beans, Shortening, Crisp Rice, Kernel Corn, Pinto Beans, Can Milk, Bran Flakes, Peas, Great Northern Beans, Box Milk, Corn Flakes, Pumpkin, Red Kidney Beans, Farina, Italian Style Tomato Sauce, Spinach, Egg Mix, Cheese, Vegetable Soup, Sliced Potatoes, Frozen Chicken, Macaroni, Tomato Soup, Sweet Potatoes, Can Chicken, Macaroni & Cheese, Egg Noodles, Tomatoes, Beef Stew, Rice, Crackers, Tomato Sauce, Frozen Hamburger and Spaghetti.

Bonus Items

Applesauce, Lunch Meat, Oatmeal, Trail Mix, Fruit Cocktail, Tuna, Cornmeal, Ham, Peaches, Peanut Butter, Flour, Bison, Pears, Peanuts, Bakery Mix, and Pineapple Syrup.

13 Counties Served:

***Benzie***

***Mecosta***

***Lake***

***Leelanau***

***Manistee***

***Mason***

***Muskegon***

***Newaygo***

***Oceana***

***Ottawa***

***Wexford***

***Osceola***

***Grand Traverse***

To contact the  
**Commodities  
Department**

Please Call:

1-888-723-8288

1-231-398-6715

1-231-398-6716

Ask for Yvonne Theodore or  
George Lawrence  
Office hours are  
8:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M

### ***Tips on warning signs of alcohol and other drug abuse for parents***

Alcohol and drugs are in every community, but as a parent, you can help our children steer clear of the them. Every child is at risk of being exposed to alcohol and other drugs. If your child experiments with alcohol or other drugs, it doesn't mean you are a bad parent, it means your child may need help. Getting involved in your child's life can help prevent these problems. Certain changes in your child could mean he or she is using alcohol or other drugs. Here are some possible warning signs:

Physical warning signs:

- Change in appetite
- Weight loss
- Changed sleeping habits
- Unusual smell on breath

Behavioral warning signs:

- Depression
- Mood swings
- Aggressiveness, recklessness
- Confusion, anxiety or paranoia

Other warning signs:

- Changes or loss of interest in personal appearance
- Not wanting to introduce new friends
- Being secretive
- Loss of interest in hobbies, sports

If you think your child has used alcohol or other drugs take immediate steps to help. Start by talking about it right away. Stay calm so you can express your thoughts clearly. Listen carefully to your child. Remind your child of the consequences associated with alcohol or other drug use. Tell your child that you are acting to help, not to punish. Seek advice. Find treatment. A treatment program can help your child become educated on the dangers and problems with alcohol and other drugs. Be-Da-Bin Behavioral Health can help you find and choose a program. We offer Prevention services, Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse services; such as Individual Therapy, Family Therapy, Cultural/ Traditional Activities, and Educational Presentations. Just give us a call we will be happy to help. We can be reached at 1-888-723-8288 ext. 6604 or (231) 398-6604.

*Submitted by Be-Da-Bin  
Written by Julie Wolfe*

### **CHS and EHAP NEWS**

I hope all of you are having a wonderful summer. Wish the weather would be a little more cooperative, but at least it's not snow. As you all may be aware, Nita Guenthardt is no longer with the CHS/EHAP program. She has re-located to Economic Development. We have posted the job and are waiting to interview the candidates. Hopefully by the middle of August, we will have a new face (voice) in the office. A reminder to the members whose last name begins with "T", your new contact person will be Sandy Renner.

I also have the usual reminders for you. First, please remember to call at least 48 hours in advance before any scheduled appointment. If it is an emergency, you have 72 hours to report it; however, we will not be sending a purchase order/approval. We will then consider the visit for payment only after we received the supporting documents from the physician's office or emergency room and the managed care committee has time to go over the medical necessity.

Second, you are responsible for reporting ANY and ALL changes in your status to our department. This includes marriage, divorce, name change, loss of job, new job, etc. If you fail to report ANY and ALL changes in your status, you

could be suspended from services until you comply with the program guidelines. If you have any questions or not sure what to send back to the office, please call so we can help you.

Third, when submitting a treatment plan for services/ procedures that will be over \$250.00, please submit ALL the information as soon as possible. We need at least 3 weeks to receive a determination.

Fourth, when submitting your bills/claims for payment/ reimbursement, please try to include your confirmation number on them. This helps to expedite payment to you and the vendors. Also, please note that claims/bills are processed once a month. Usually it is sooner, but the rule is once a month. We try to get the checks out ASAP, but other issues come up. Thank you for your patience regarding this matter.

Thank you to all who have been voicing their questions and concerns to us. If you need help, or have a question, please call us toll free at 1.888.382.8299 or locally at 231.723.8299. Miigwetch.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Gina Wright  
CHS Supervisor*

## **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resources**

**Kent County  
YWCA Domestic Crisis Center  
(616) 459-4681  
Crisis (616) 451-2744**

**Lake, Mason, and  
Oceana Counties  
Region Four  
Community Services  
Crisis (800) 950-5808**

**Manistee County  
CHOICES  
Crisis (231) 723-0082**

**Muskegon County  
Every Women's Place  
Main (231) 759-7909  
Crisis (231) 722-3333 24hr**

**Newaygo County  
WISE  
Crisis (231) 796-6600  
Or (800) 374-9473**

**Ottawa County  
Center for Women in Transition  
Crisis (616) 392-1970  
Or (800) 848-5991**

**Wexford County  
OASIS/Family Resource Ctr.  
Crisis (231) 775-7233**



**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**  
**NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

***Native American Owned Businesses***

**Project Description:** The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is expanding the Little River Casino and Resort properties to include additional hotel rooms, construction of an entertainment venue, remodeling of existing facilities to accommodate a sports bar, and connections between new and existing facilities which will house cultural presentations.

**Requested Native American Owned Businesses:** The Band is businesses with interests in the above areas of construction which are interested in participating in this construction project to forward letters of interest to the following address:

Development Committee  
**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**  
*Attention: Construction Project - Native American Owned Business Database*  
2700 Orchard Highway  
Manistee, Michigan 49660

You must include the attached form with your submission.

The Construction Manager shall be required to submit RFP's to all available and qualified Indian preference candidates. All members filing a response to this Notice of Construction Project will have the information forwarded to the Construction Manager for bidding purposes.

All members filing a response will have their businesses included in a database that the Tribe will maintain for future projects. You may be notified of other projects of the Tribe in the future as a result of this filing.

There is no deadline for filing a letter of interest and the attached form. However, the current construction project is scheduled to begin in October 2004 with bidding on projects beginning in mid-September. All members are encouraged to respond no later than **August 15, 2004** so as to allow the information to be placed in the database to be forwarded to the Construction Manager.

**Native American Owned Businesses Information Form**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Business**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**License, Permit, Certification**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**List Key Employees, Skills, Qualifications**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**List Up to Five Projects of Past Five Years - References**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Development Committee will forward this information in a database format for the Construction Manager of the expansion project for his and the subcontractor's use. References may be checked by the Development Committee as well as by the Construction Manager and any subcontractor.

**You must be able to relocate immediately to begin working in this project. Construction is estimated to begin in October 2004.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you are interested in participating in a Native American owned business database and not on this construction project.



**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**  
**NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECT**

***Skilled Trades Workers***

**Project Description:** The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is expanding the Little River Casino and Resort properties to include additional hotel rooms, construction of an entertainment venue, remodeling of existing facilities to accommodate a sports bar, and connections between new and existing facilities which will house cultural presentations.

**Requested Skilled Trades Workers:** The Band is requesting members with construction related skills interested in participating in this construction project to forward letters of interest to the following address:

Development Committee  
**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians**  
*Attention: Construction Project - Skilled Trades Worker Database*  
2700 Orchard Highway  
Manistee, Michigan 49660

You must include the attached form with your submission.

The Construction Manager shall be required to submit all available and qualified Indian preference candidates to contractors and subcontractors for consideration. All members filing a response to this Notice of Construction Project will have the information forwarded to the Construction Manager and to the sub-contractors.

All members filing a response will also have their names included in a database that the Tribe will maintain for future projects. You may be notified of other projects of the Tribe in the future as a result of this filing.

There is no deadline for filing a letter of interest and the attached form. However, the current construction project is scheduled to begin in October 2004 with bidding on projects beginning in mid-September. All members are encouraged to respond no later than **August 15, 2004** so as to allow the information to be placed in the database to be forwarded to the Construction Manager.

**Skills Bank Information Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Skill or Trade**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**License, Permit, Certification**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Construction Projects Worked On**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Employers in Past Five Years - References**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Development Committee will forward this information in a database format for the Construction Manager of the expansion project for his and the subcontractor's use. References may be checked by the Development Committee as well as by the Construction Manager and any subcontractor.

**You must be able to relocate immediately to begin working in this project. Construction is estimated to begin in October 2004.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you are interested in participating in a Skills Bank database and not on this construction project.



Migizi Business Camp Report

Thank you for your support of the kids and their Trade Show last month! This was the most successful Trade Show in the three years of Migizi Business Camp! I think that nearly everyone sold out, or nearly so, and I know that all of the kids were very pleased to see their community come out and support them the way that you did!

Just to let you know- this year's business ideas were great! First place in the business plan competition went to Zachary Szpliet and his silent business partner Cody Feaster for a lawn and yard care business called "The Lawn Guy". Raquel Cole and Ashley Feaster placed second with "Jewels From the Earth", a hand-made jewelry business. Third place went to Amber Shepard for her aromatherapy based business "Scentsations". Dual honorable mentions went to Buddy Oleniczak for "Bud's Top Notch Auto Detailing" and Gabriel Santos and Joshua McClellan's "Majik Mirror" hand-designed mirror company.

The judges were very impressed by the remaining businesses, "Ryan and Brett's Crossfire", a paintball business by Ryan Szpliet and Brett Peoples, "Two Little Ladies Candle Company", a hand-made candle company envisioned by Erika Shepard and Chrissy Verheek, and Hope Kibert and Jazzmon Koon's "Charmed Arts", a business that would hand-paint commissioned artwork on household items such as picture frames and glassware.

The students worked hard this year, as usual, and developed unique business ideas. I think all of the judges would agree- Watch out! There is much more to come from these kids!

Again, on behalf of all of the kids, thank you for coming to their Trade Show!

Submitted by Yvonne Parsons, Education Coordinator

Housing Department News

The Little River Band Housing Department would like to announce the REACH Program will be done taking applications for the program until it ends in September 2004.

This program is intended to promote health and safety in the home, along with energy conservation and self-sufficiency and to know the importance of conserving energy. This program is available in the nine county service area for qualified homeowners who are low-income. To request an application or if you have questions about the program please call our office at 231.723.8288 or toll free 888.723.8288 ext. 6729.

Swan Story , continued from front page

Plants like wild rice are destroyed, and when there are so many Mute swans ripping food up it makes it pretty hard for the Trumpeter to get a meal too. The Trumpeter, with it's black beak, simply strains water thru its bill to collect food.

Making sure the Trumpeter swans get enough to eat and have a safe place to live, the LRBOI Natural Resources Department will continue to monitor the released birds until they are able to fly sometime in August. The staff biologists are also working on ways to help manage the Mute swan population, including limited harvesting and addling, a way of keeping eggs from hatching.

Hunting Mute swans doesn't make some people happy though. Because the swans are beautiful, elegant and graceful, there are animal rights groups that don't think they should be tampered with at all. Is it good Trumpeter swan, or bad Mute swan? Both animals have the right to life. It's a tough situation but as stewards of nature, the Tribe continues to look at studies, do field research, and provide education opportunities so good decisions can be made to care for all wildlife living on Tribal lands.



Punt guns were used to kill hundreds of birds in a single shot.

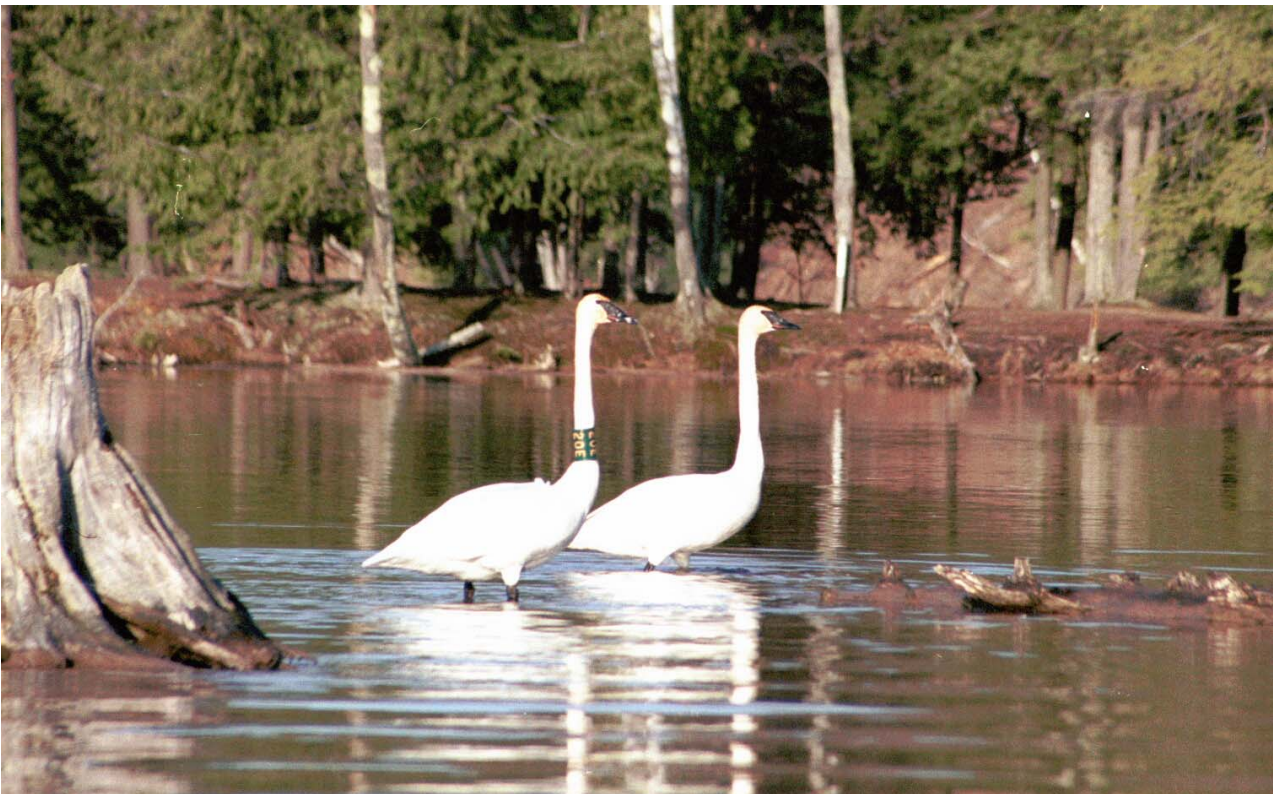
LAKE EXPRESS SAVINGS OPPORTUNITY

A 15% discounted boat ferry opportunity has become available to the Tribe, Tribal Members & Staff. The Lake Express has two dock locations, one in Muskegon, Michigan and other in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Schedules may be obtained with Lake Express or by going online at:

www.lake-express.com

To take advantage of this discounted offer accommodations must be made by phone; no online discounts are available at this time. When making your reservation call 231-755-0308 and advise the receptionist that you are with the Little River Band. Please have your Tribal I.D available upon boarding.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call Michelle Lucas at 1-888-723-8288 ext 6804.



A pair of Trumpeters, which mate for life, are pictured here on Hamlin Lake.



Proud Warrior



Tribal Elder and WWII Veteran Joe Medacco proudly displays his regalia at an event honoring his son.

Look for upcoming articles on special people like Elders and Veterans in future issues of Currents.

Photo courtesy P. Medahko

Anishinaabe Language Hotline  
1-877-789-0993

- People & professions
- Verbs on cooking
- More verbs
- Word opposites
- Verbs
- Body Parts
- Clothing
- My family members
- Your family members
- His/her family members
- Numbers (10-90)
- Commands
- To leave info for language CD Rom

- Press 1
- Press 2
- Press 3
- Press 4
- Press 5
- Press 6
- Press 7
- Press 8
- Press 9
- Press 10
- Press 11
- Press 12
- Press 13

Verbs

He/she	Past	Present	Future
To build	Wiin giizhige	Wiin zhige	Wiin wiizhige
To clean	Wiin giibiinchige	Wiin biinchige	Wiin wiibiinchige
To climb	Wiin giikwaandwe	Wiin kwaandwe	Wiin wiikwaandwe
To color	Wiin giitisige	Wiin tisige	Wiin wiitisige
To come	Wiin giibizhaa	Wiin bizhaa	Wiin wiibizhaa

Match the words

Nimkiikaa	A foot
Shkwaade	Let's eat
Mnikwaajagan	It is thundering
Zid	Pow wow
Waawan	Zero or nothing
Jiingtamok	A fire
Ngwis	A man
Kaagego	An egg
Nini	A cup
Wiisinedaa	My son

Answers from last month

Gmiwaan	It is raining
Mtig	A tree
Pidakajiigan	A fork
Kaad	Leg
Niibiish aaboo	Tea
Wiingash	Sweetgrass
Ngashi	My mother
Niizh	Two
Kwe	A woman
Maajaan	Come here

Kenny Neganigwane Pheasant

231-933-4406 231-690-3508  
Emails: kennypheasant@charter.net  
pheasant9@aol.com  
Websites: www.anishinaabemowin.org  
www.anishinaabemdaa.com

CALLING ALL TRIBAL MEMBERS!

MONTHLY DRAWING CONTEST CONTINUES!

DRAW AND ENTER THIS MONTH AND YOU CAN WIN A GIFT CERTIFICATE OR OTHER NICE PRIZE

DRAWINGS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR AN UPCOMING CHILDREN'S TRIBAL COLORING BOOK

DRAWINGS WILL BE RETURNED IF SENT WITH A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE. DRAWINGS SHOULD BE NO LARGER THAN LETTER SIZE PAPER.

DRAWING  
SUBJECT FOR  
THIS MONTH:



The EARTH

GOOD LUCK!





Part 3 of 4

# Reservation History Series

Dispossession and Dissolution Era  
(1870 - 1890)

## Introduction

This is the third article in a four part series being published in Little River Currents that shares what we have learned since researching the history of our Reservations. The first article in the May issue explained the 1821 Treaty of Chicago and the 1836 Treaty of Washington that ceded millions of acres of our territory and created the Manistee Reservation for the Grand River Ottawa. The second article covered the 1855 Treaty of Detroit and the Reservation that was promised to our ancestors so they could have a permanent homeland. This article discusses why and how this Treaty failed to provide a solution to the problems caused by the previous Treaty of Washington in 1836. In fact, the problems only became worse.

## Squatters and Settlers Take over the Ottawa Homelands

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, George Mannypenny, had intended that the Reservations established for the Ottawa in the 1855 Treaty be clearly defined, protected from non-Indian intruders and that they be permanent. Unfortunately, many people, including people in government posts charged with protecting those Reservations, worked to undermine the goal of preserving the Ottawa peoples right to establish protected homelands on permanent Reservations.

The 1855 treaty contained a carefully outlined 5-year timetable and process for Ottawa members to select 40-80 acre allotments within their reservations. Ottawa members would then receive a



certificate that guaranteed their right to ownership and possession of the lands they had selected. The federal government would hold those lands in trust for our people for at least ten years. Ten years after Ottawa Tribal members received certificates for their lands, the President would issue patents to those individuals; however, the local Indian agent could recommend that the patents be withheld from individuals if he did not believe they were capable of managing their own affairs. This provision was intended to permit the Indian agent to recommend continued trust protection of certain Ottawa members lands if he felt they were likely to be defrauded by non-Indians.

The treaty also allowed Ottawa members the opportunity - for a five year period **after** the process of selecting allotments had been completed - to purchase additional lands within their reservation boundaries **before** any surplus lands might be made available to non-Indians. Mannypenny expected that Grand River Band members allotment selections and purchases would use all of the lands within the Reservations.

If the time lines established in the 1855 Treaty had been applied as was intended, to benefit our people, Mannypenny's expectation may have become a reality. Unfortunately, the time lines established in the 1855 Treaty for completing this process were much too short. It ended up taking ten years to complete the list of allotment selections, not the five years anticipated in the 1855 Treaty. Delays in selecting allotments and issuing certificates provided land speculators, lumbermen, illegal settlers (squatters) and, eventually, state and national legislators with opportunities to reinterpret treaty language to justify claims to title to Reservation lands by non-Indians.

Even as the first wave of our ancestors from the Grand River Valley were making preparations in 1857 to move from the villages they had lived in for nearly more than one hundred fifty years,

squatters were already moving onto their Reservation lands in Oceana and Muskegon Counties.

A succession of Indian Agents - Henry Gilbert, Andrew Fitch, DeWitt Leach, and Richard Smith - assigned to Michigan were charged with preparing the lists of lands selected by Grand River Ottawa members. After both Henry Gilbert and Andrew Fitch failed to complete the selection process, Secretary of Interior Orville Browning cancelled all of the previous selections made under Gilbert and Fitch, and instructed Agent Leach to begin the selection process all over again. Richard Smith, who formerly served as Clerk and Recorder at the 1855 Treaty negotiations, succeeded Leach as Indian Agent in 1865. Agent Smith did not complete the process for Grand River Ottawa members to make their selections until 1869.

Most of the certificates for the allotments selected by our ancestors were not issued until 1866 - six years after the date the allotment process was supposed to be completed. Under the terms of the 1855 Treaty, the federal government was supposed to hold those lands in trust for our people for at least 10 years until 1876. Many of our ancestors (166 families) selected their allotments on lands along the Pere Marquette River in Custer Township in Mason County. Other members/families selected allotments with their relatives in Elbridge Township in Oceana County. Other members were never able to select allotments on their Tribe's Reservation as a result of the delays and confusion associated with this process.

Instead of allotting lands to Grand River Band members, the delay assisted non-Indians in acquiring two-thirds of the Grand River Ottawa reservation lands between 1865 and 1880, the very years when the Grand River Ottawa were attempting to make the allotment selections they were promised by law in the 1855 Treaty. Despite Mannypenny's belief that the allotment process would result in sole Ottawa ownership of lands within the Reservations, by 1866, our Grand River people held a strong title to only one-fourth of the Reservation lands promised in the Treaty of 1855.

While the United States officials paid little attention to the timetable outlined in the 1855 Treaty, land speculators and officials anxious to help their non-Indian constituents did. They took advantage of the delay in completing the allotment process to force their way onto the Grand River Ottawa Reservations and to press federal officials to open the Reservations to claims by non-Indians.

In 1865, the United States Civil War ended and returning veterans were offered military bounty warrants that allowed them to select land within the public domain as compensation for their service in the war. The demands of these returning soldiers and misinformed readings of the treatys five-year restricted purchase provision prompted a new round of calls to open the Grand River Reservations for settlement. The treaty stated that the United States could sell or dispose of any unappropriated lands remaining in the Reservations after all Ottawa members entitled to make selections had done so and after Ottawa members five-year time exclusive time period for purchasing additional lands had expired.

If the treaty had been implemented as intended, the exclusive time period for Grand River Ottawa members to make selections should have run from 1866-1871. People interested in opening the Reservations to non-Indians claimed that the Treaty required that the Reservations be opened to sale in 1865, ten years after the five-year allotment process (1855-1860) and five-year exclusive purchase period (1860-1865) had run. These same people - lumbermen and speculators - also took advantage of the five-year exclusive purchase period by using Ottawa straw men to file claims (so-called







*Tribal members and families attending the Muskegon Reservation workshop are pictured above and throughout Part 3 of the Reservation Restoration series.*

cash entries) for large quantities of Reservation lands.

Three men, in particular, Joseph Ba Ba Me, an Ottawa Metis, named John B. Parisien, and John R. Robinson (son of former American Fur Company operative Rix Robinson and an Ottawa mother) purchased 10.8% of the lands within the Grand River Reservations in Mason, Oceana and Muskegon Counties on behalf of land speculators. They began this assault on land title of Grand River Ottawa reservations in 1866.

An old family friend of John Robinson, Congressman Thomas Ferry, assisted him in his efforts to secure lands in the Muskegon County (Holton Township) Reservation. Congressman Ferry helped John Robinson press his case before James Harlan, the Commissioner of the General Land Office, to get Harlan to recognize Robinson's claims to lands. Congressman Ferry argued that since the five-year period specified in the 1855 treaty for completing allotments to Grand River Band Ottawas had passed that sale of un-allotted reservation land to John Robinson was legal.

During the time Richard Smith served as Indian Agent for the Michigan Agency, he voiced opposition to every plan devised to separate the Grand River Ottawa from our reserved lands. Having served as the Clerk and Recorder of the 1855 Treaty negotiations, Smith knew that the treaty negotiators intended to create Reservations that were exclusively occupied by Ottawa people. Smith also knew that the time lines and land selection/purchase procedures established in the Treaty were intended to be applied for the benefit of the Ottawa people, not as deadlines that allowed non-Indians to preempt our Grand River ancestors ability to obtain lands in their own Reservation.

Michigan Congressman Thomas Ferry had very different ideas. Congressman Ferry sought to please his land-hungry supporters by urging the Interior Department to end the existence of reservations. He requested an investigation of the situation on the Grand River Band Reservations - not to learn if our Ottawa ancestors had received the lands they were promised under the Treaty - but to determine which unoccupied lands he had available to open for sale to non-Indians.

In September of 1866, new Commission of Indian Affairs Dennis Cooley appointed Henry Alvord to conduct the inquiry that Congressman Ferry had requested. Dr. Alvord filed his report with new Commissioner of Indian Affairs, L.V. Bogy, in November of 1866. In that report, Dr. Alvord reported that the Grand River Ottawas on the Oceana and Mason County Reservations wished to assure that lands be made available to their children who had reached the age of 21 since the 1855 Treaty had been negotiated, even though the Treaty did not specifically grant them the right to select allotments.

Although Dr. Alvord wanted to open the Grand River Reservations to non-Indians, he believed that a new treaty was necessary to accomplish that. Dr. Alvord's opinion was drawn from experience. Similar problems with the allotment process on the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe's Reservation had required negotiation of a new treaty. Dr. Alvord served as negotiator of the 1864 Treaty with the Chippewa of Saginaw, Swan Creek and Black River in which those Bands ceded a portion of the lands that had been reserved for them in their 1855 Treaty back to the United States in exchange for a promise by the United States that all the remaining land on the Isabella Reservation be set aside for the exclusive use, ownership, and occupancy by those Bands.

### **Ottawa Push for a New Treaty to Protect Their Homelands**

Grand River Ottawa on the Mason and Oceana County Reservations wanted to negotiate a new treaty with the United States with similar provisions. The Grand River Ottawa also wanted the United States to protect the remaining unclaimed lands within their Reservations so that children who had turned 21 could receive lands. Under the terms of the 1855 Treaty, allotments had only been granted to those members who were 21 at the time of the Treaty. Now more than 10 years later, a number of our members had reached the age of 21 and found themselves living landless on their own Reservation.

Efforts to negotiate a new treaty were pressed by both Ottawa leaders, Indian Agents and Congressman Ferry, amongst others. Our leaders sought new commitments to protect their Reservations in Mason and Oceana Counties, including provisions that would invalidate all of the claims to Reservation lands made by non-Indians. Ottawa leaders also asked that patents be issued for the allotments by members. Leaders made this request to prevent the federal government from again canceling the allotment certificates that had been issued to members. Ottawa leaders believed that the issuance of patents would prevent the United States from canceling certificates and granting claims to squatters at their people's expense. Ottawa leaders also wanted assurances that their young people who had turned 21 since 1855 could also select lands within their Reservations. Finally, Ottawa leaders wanted the United States to speed up certain financial commitments so that they could develop their economies on their Reservations.





*Continued from previous page*

## The Grand River Ottawa Lose Their Homelands

Commissioner Parker and Agent Long were convinced that the United States should issue unrestricted fee patents to all of the Grand River Ottawa people who had received allotments. However, neither Long nor Parker seemed concerned with whether the Grand River Ottawa people receiving these patents understood the ease with which our people could lose lands they held in fee. Private property was a concept that was fairly new to our people. For generations, our Ottawa people had held our lands in common and no individual had the right - let alone authority - to own and sell this land. Our people had thought that their Reservation lands would be protected and they were not prepared for the various frauds and schemes that would be perpetrated by non-Indians anxious to acquire title to lands in the Reservations.



While federal officials, and even our own Grand River Ottawa leaders, believed that issuance of patents would solve many of the problems with the allotment process, they quickly learned that this was not the case. Despite the fact that the 1855 Treaty seemed to clearly require protection of Reservation lands allotted to individuals and Ottawa Tribal members until at least 1876, most Grand River people lost title to their lands within two years after receiving their patents. Federal officials also learned that many Ottawa who had selected allotments had already lost the lands they had selected to non-Indians even before patents had been issued. Grand River leaders also continued to press federal officials to permit their young people, who had reach the age of 21 since 1855, to receive lands on their Reservations. Ottawa leaders also asked that they be given the opportunity to purchase additional lands within their Reservations under the exclusive five-year period they were promised; however, as we discussed earlier, influential federal officials were arguing that that right ended in 1865. Ottawa leaders also asked federal officials to make good on their promise to require non-Indian squatters to leave their Reservations.

Prospects for convincing federal officials to honor the new promises they had made improved when former Indian Agent Richard Smith, who had worked to secure the land for the Ottawa as intended by the Treaty, returned in 1870 as head of the Michigan Agency. Unfortunately, Agent Smith did not live to see federal protection properly extended to the Grand River Reservations. As Smith and his wife traveled to northern Michigan to make annuity payments in Fall of 1871, their ship sank in Lake Huron. This took Smith's knowledge about the meaning and intent of the 1855 Treaty, as well as other important papers, to the bottom of Saginaw Bay.



### Remedial Measures Taken - Some Good, Some Bad

Between 1872 and 1876, at the constant urging of Congressman Thomas Ferry, Congress took action that was presented as remedial legislation to resolve the conflicts over lands on Grand River Reservations. The legislation did address some problems raised by Grand River Ottawa leaders, by providing a mechanism for members who had not been allowed select allotments, to select homestead allotments within the Reservations. The legislation mandated that patents be delivered for a specified number of parcels within the Reservations. The legislation also included language to extend the trust protection for certain lands allotted to Ottawa tribal members.

However, these laws were primarily aimed at protecting

non-Indian squatters who had illegally claimed lands on the Reservations and speeding up the process of opening additional lands on the Reservation. That purpose was evident in the 1872 Acts title: An Act for the Restoration to Market of Certain Lands in Michigan. Many of the parcels of land for which patents were required, were lands that Ottawa straw men had purchased for non-Indian lumber companies and speculators. The law also ordered the opening of the Reservations to non-Indian homesteaders within six months after its passage even if the Ottawa tribal members it was supposed to benefit had been able to make homestead selections or receive patents.



The law also did nothing for the hundreds of Ottawa who had selected allotments under the 1855 Treaty but whose lands were not claimed by non-Indians. This problem was addressed, in part, by an amendment to the 1872 Act that was passed by Congress in 1875; however, by that time, there were few unappropriated lands remaining in the Reservations that had not already been claimed by non-Indians.

The legislation adopted in 1872 and 1875, and the issuance of patents to the Ottawa, only seemed to worsen the problems on the Grand River Reservations. As was discussed earlier, the issuance of unrestricted fee patents opened the door for dishonest non-Indians to defraud Ottawa members into schemes that resulted in the loss of lands. Despite the assurances from Commissioner Mannypenny during the negotiations of the 1855 Treaty, local governments also began assessing property taxes against Ottawa lands. Finally, non-Indians initiated abandonment proceedings against lands that Ottawa families had obtained under the 1872 or 1875 homestead laws.



As the problems worsened, a new Indian Agent, George Lee, attempted to revive Agent Smith's policy of protecting the remaining lands held by the Grand River Ottawas within their Reservations. During 1876 and 1877, Agent Lee investigated Reservation land transactions and recommended that the Secretary of the Interior protect the remaining Ottawa homesteads with trust patents. The Secretary of Interior authorized Special Federal Agent Edwin Brooks to examine homestead fraud on the Grand River Reservations.

Agents Brooks and Lee examined homestead frauds on a number of Reservations. Although Brooks' report was to focus on homestead frauds, the investigation conducted by he and Agent Lee uncovered frauds and other unethical practices used by non-Indians to take Ottawa lands. Brooks' report also called for federal protection of Ottawa landholdings from attempts by the state and local governments to assess property taxes against Ottawa held lands on their Reservations. Brooks also recommended that the government go beyond initiation of lawsuits to protect Ottawa lands and reinstate complete trust status for all Ottawa land for at least 20 years.

Even though Brooks noted that his report listed on a portion of the legitimate claims that Ottawa tribal members had and asked that action be taken to protect Ottawa lands, few, if any, actions were taken. Most federal officials viewed the Grand River Ottawa continued presence on the Reservations as an impediment to development and civilization of the state. Federal officials were also increasingly adopting the incorrect interpretation of the 1855 Treaty voiced by Senator Howard over ten years earlier, that the 1855 Treaty had dissolved the tribal status of the Grand River Ottawa and that the Ottawa and their lands were now subject to the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan.



Congress did enact a final amendment to the 1872 homestead law in 1884, which allowed Ottawas to obtain homesteads under the authority of the 1862 homestead act. Despite the enactment of four separate pieces of federal legislation (1872, 1875, 1876 and 1884) designed to remedy the problems that had denied Grand River Ottawa people their right to lands within their Reservations. Only sixty-four Grand River Ottawas received patents to homesteads between 1872 and 1888, representing only 6,972 acres, or 6% of the 111,793 acres within the boundaries of the Grand River Ottawas Reservations.



All told, with the help of many officials representing the United States government which had entered into the very Treaty intended to provide the Grand River Ottawa with a permanent Reservation homeland and who promised to protect that homeland, non-Indians had acquired title to nearly two-thirds of the land within the Grand River Ottawa Reservations by 1880. Before 1890, federal officials would, with few exceptions, completely abandon their responsibilities to our Grand River Ottawa relatives. Federal officials would adopt, as official policy, an interpretation of the 1855 Treaty that considered the tribal status of the Ottawas governments as dissolved - meaning, we were no longer sovereigns but simply Indian citizens of Michigan.

Consistent with this view, the federal government closed the Michigan Indian Agency in 1889. This left the Ottawas to the mercy of those who wished to exploit them or their remaining property. As many current Little River Tribal members know, our Grandparents and Great-grandparents did not leave the Grand River Reservations. They simply crowded on the few remaining parcels with other families. Other lived in settlements on homestead lands just outside the Reservation that had been obtained under one of the remedial homestead laws. Still other families joined relatives who still lived in settlements on the 1836 Manistee Reservation.



Other people were also advocating for a new treaty at this time; however, those individuals had very different agendas. Agent DeWitt Leach, for example, recommended that the United States negotiate a treaty which would require the Grand River Ottawa to relinquish their Reservations in Mason, Oceana and Muskegon Counties in exchange for lands on an expanded Reservation at Little Traverse. President Abraham Lincoln even entered an Order withdrawing nine additional townships and adding those lands to the Little Traverse Reservation in anticipation of the Grand River Ottawas being relocated to that Reservation.

Thomas Ferry, on the other hand, was simply interested in protecting the claims of non-Indians who had made claims to lands within the Grand River Reservations. Ferry also wanted a new treaty so that all of the unoccupied lands within the Reservations could be opened to non-Indian settlers.

Despite repeated requests from Grand River Ottawa leaders, Indian Agents and state and federal legislators, officials in Washington, D.C. failed to take action to authorize negotiation of a new treaty with the Grand River Ottawa. Finally, in June of 1868, the members of the Grand River Ottawa communities on both the Mason County Reservation (known as Indian Town or Pere Marquette Village) and the Oceana County Reservation (Pentwater or Elbridge) formally authorized a delegation of Chiefs and



Headmen to travel to Washington, D.C. to take efforts to protect their Reservations for their people. Those leaders departed for Washington, D.C. on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1868. Unfortunately, the efforts of our leaders to protect our Reservations would fall on deaf ears in Washington. Michigan's Congressmen opposed any effort that would delay the issuance of patents to non-Indians claiming lands on the Grand River Reservations. In addition, since the time the Saginaw Chippewas had been able to negotiate a new treaty in 1864, Congress had passed a law which prevented the President from negotiating any new treaties. Any new treaty with the Grand River Ottawa could only be enacted as federal legislation.

Most disturbing, federal officials (Michigan Senator John Howard) would begin mis-stating a provision in the 1855 Treaty that would come to haunt our people until 1994. In essence, Senator Howard responded to pleas by Grand River Ottawa leaders for protection of their Reservation lands by arguing that no protection was due. Senator Howard argued that the tribal relations [of the Grand River Ottawa] were dissolved by that treaty and they are now Citizens of the State [Michigan].

During this same time, Grand River Ottawa leaders in Mason and Oceana Counties hired W.T. Howell, who had served as a Prosecuting Attorney in Oceana County, to file a lawsuit against the federal government. Howell noted that while the Grand River Ottawa leaders had made several requests for a new treaty several thousand acres of the choicest and most valuable lands reserved under the provisions of the Treaty had been sold and patented under circumstances of fraud and criminality, which in ordinary transactions would amount to a felony including lands for which individual Indians hold the Government certificates for patents as selections made by them under the Treaty.



In what may have been the final blow to the Ottawas efforts to negotiate a new treaty, Michigan Indian Agent Richard Smith was replaced by a former military officer, Major James W. Long. Long abandoned Agent Smith's efforts to protect the Grand River reservations. Agent Long met with Grand River Ottawa leaders to convince them to drop their plan to sue the federal government. Ottawa leaders believed that the only way to obtain the strong title that would protect their people's lands was to receive patents. They had seen too many of their people lose the lands they thought they had selected to non-Indians when their certificates were cancelled and new allotment lists required.



Grand River Ottawa leaders agreed to delay their plans to visit Washington and pursue their lawsuit if Agent Long kept a promise to stop settlers from moving onto the Reservations and to ask that patents be issued for the allotments selected by their people. Agent Long kept those promises in part.

Unfortunately, Agent Long requested that unrestricted, fee patents be issued, not restricted patents that clearly protected Ottawa lands from taxation and other schemes that non-Indians would use to defraud our people of their lands. The first batch of patents reached our people in Muskegon, Oceana and Mason Counties in October 1870. Unfortunately, a number of Grand River Ottawa would not receive patents for a number of years - some not at all.



*LRBOI/2004 Jííngtamok Photos*

*From Melissa Zelenak*









## Tribal Happenings

### Warrior Society receives POW-MIA flag to present at LRCR

On a beautiful day in July the POW-MIA Veterans group, Rolling Thunder, rolled their motorcycles into the Little River Casino Resort. The occasion of their visit was to present the LRBOI Warrior Society with a flag to honor those lost in action.

The Little River Casino Resort is the only casino in Michigan that has been presented with the POW-MIA flag.

To the Warrior Society, Rolling Thunder, and all those attending it was a proud time for fellowship and remembrance.



### TRIBAL DISCOUNTS AT LITTLE RIVER CASINO RESORT

**Hotel:** LRBOI members will receive a \$59 standard room rate or \$129 suite rate at anytime throughout the year. There are no blackout dates. LRBOI Tribal members participating in any group functions will also be offered the Tribal rates mentioned above. Membership IDs are required at time of reservation.

**Food:** LRBOI members will receive 2 for 1 discount on Thursdays only and is valid in any of the food outlets. Membership IDs need to be presented to the server at the time of order.

**Gift Shop:** LRBOI members will receive 25% off any merchandise, excluding sundry and consignment items. Tax-free purchase of cigarettes is available also with a limit of five cartons per purchase.

**Attention Tribal Families**  
A Community Gathering is being planned for September.  
If you have any ideas for programs or topics that you would like to see or hear about,  
Please contact: Julie Ramsey  
Family Services  
(231) 398-6614

**LRBOI Family Services is sponsoring 10 free rooms for Elders only (55+) interested in attending the "Historical Trauma Conference"** September 8-10th 2004 hosted by Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa. The rooms are reserved for September 7-10th at the Victories Casino and Hotel. The conference is free but requires registration. All meal expenses are up to the Elders themselves as are transportation responsibilities.

For more information call Dynah Kelsey, Caseworker focus Elders at 398-6603. This is on a first come first served basis. Hope to hear from you real soon!

**If you are a LRBOI Tribal member and are interested in serving on a Commission, Committee or Board, please submit your letter of interest to:**

**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
375 River Street  
Manistee, MI 49660**

### BUSINESS CARD ADS NOW AVAILABLE

Advertise your business for less than \$1 a day

Deadline for submissions is the 1st of the month for publication in following month's issue. For a one month business card ad send your \$25 check or money order made payable to the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians

**Little River Currents  
375 River Street  
Manistee, Michigan 49660**

**Tribal members send just \$15.00. Include Tribal identification number on the back of your business card and on check or money order.**



The CPC Committee, Art deBres, Jerry Ramsey, Stella Gibson & Melissa Zelenak, would like to thank all these people for helping with the Jiingtamok, Mini-Pow Wow & Parade this year.

Amanda Ivinson, Andre Lewis, Angie Willis, Anna Smith, Ashley Verheek, Ben Willis, Bill Willis, Brian Louma, Brian Medacco, Buddy Oleniczak, Christian Kequam, Christine Verheek, DeAhna Lewis, Del Peters, Diane Lonn, Eugene Harris, Frank Lewis, Gary Lewis, Gary Verheek, Gary Walker, Geoff Burkhart, Georgianna Adamczak, Gordon Hicks, Howard Ramsey, Israel Stone, Jason Verheek, Jessica Macklam, Jim Gibson, Joan Burkhart, Joan Peters, Joe Fisk, Juanita Antoine, Kareen Lewis, Kathy Berentsen, Kim Alexander, Laura Verheek, Laurie Willis, Little River Casino Resort, Loretta Staff, LRB Public Safety, LRB Warriors Society, Margaret Scott, Margie Harris, Marty Wabindato, Mary Thomas, Mike Waite, Mindy Ivolan, Nahala Laura, Nancy Bardy, Peggy Vriesman, Philip Thomas, Raven Lewis, Raymond Burke, Renee Diehlman, Roger Martell Jr., Roma Battice, Sandy Chandler, Sandy Lewis, Sean Fisk, Steve Parsons, Tammy Carter, Tammy Kleeman, Taylor Bramble, Terri Fisk, Thomas Berentsen, Tracy Gavin, Travis Willis, Trish Johnson, Valerie Chandler, Victor Mungia, Wabanung Bussey, Whitley Reese, Zachary Szpliet, All Head Pow wow Personnel, All Drums, All Judges, Emcees, Arena Director, and Anyone else we may have forgotten.

LRBOI JOB HOTLINE  
1-866-556-5660

National Congress of  
American Indians  
1301 Connecticut Avenue  
NW Suite 200  
Washington DC 20036

When Indians vote,  
Indian issues are  
addressed — in  
Washington DC,  
in state capitals  
and in  
community councils.

A quite minority is an  
easy target.

We need people in public  
office who understand  
Indian issues and are  
responsive to the needs  
of Indian Country.

Native Vote 2004 is  
striving to get one  
million American Indian  
and Alaska Native voters  
to the polls on  
November 2nd.

Indian voters WILL  
make a difference.

Become a leader in your  
community.

VOTE

www.nativevote.org

Attention Tribal Artists, Crafters and Retailers

The Purchasing Department is looking for Tribal artists, crafters and retailers to register with the Tribe's vendor database. Periodically throughout the year, purchases of items are made for various events. Items may include, but are not limited to artwork, baskets, beadwork, leather crafts, dream catchers, medicine wheels, quillwork, woodwork, t-shirts, candles, etc. We would like to have a list of Tribal members to utilize for these purchases. Once the Purchasing Department receives your form, a W-9 tax form will be mailed to you for completion. If you are interested, please complete the form below and mail it to:

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
Attn: Purchasing Department  
375 River Street  
Manistee, MI 49660

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of item(s) for sale:	Price
1. _____	\$ _____
2. _____	\$ _____
3. _____	\$ _____
4. _____	\$ _____
5. _____	\$ _____
6. _____	\$ _____
7. _____	\$ _____
8. _____	\$ _____
9. _____	\$ _____
10. _____	\$ _____

## 90-Day Calendar & Contact Information

# FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 11, 2004

# Little River Casino Resort

## Three Fires Conference Room

*ELDERS: Call Elders Coordinator for more information on the Elders Meeting*

# Natural Resource Commission

# Fall Feast

Saturday, August 14, 2004

11am-4pm

# Interim Casino Building

## M22 & US31

# August 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 EN	3 AL	4 TC NR	5 AL HO	6	7 EL WS
8	9 BI	10 CP AL	11 TC	12 AL ED    HO	13	14
15	16 EN	17 TC AL	18 TC	19 AL HO	20	21 TC
22	23	24 CP AL	25 TC	26 AL HO	27	28
29	30	31 AL				

# September 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 TC NR	2 AL HO	3	4 EL WS
5	6 EN	7 AL	8 TC	9 AL HO ED	10	11
12	13 BI	14 CP AL	15 TC	16 AL HO	17	18 TC
19	20 EN	21 TC AL	22 TC	23 AL HO	24	25
26	27	28 CP AL	29 TC	30 AL HO		

## Meeting Schedule & Calendar Abbreviations

<b>AL</b>	<b>Anishinaabemowin Language Class</b> Every Thursday 12:20 pm - 1:20 pm Saplings Room @ Casino <i>Every Tuesday 5:30 pm-7:00 pm Advanced Language Class @ Training Ctr.</i>
<b>EN</b>	<b>Enrollment Commission Meeting:</b> LRBOI Administrative Building Every first and third Monday of the month at 5:30 pm
<b>CP</b>	<b>Cultural Preservation Committee Meeting:</b> Bank Building, Dome Room 3rd Floor Every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 3:30 pm
<b>ED</b>	<b>Education Committee Meeting:</b> LRBOI Administrative Building Every 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm
<b>EL</b>	<b>Elders Meeting:</b> LRBOI Community Center First Saturday of the month at 12:00 pm

# October 2004

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 EL WS
3	4 EN	5 AL	6 TC	7 AL HO	8	9
10	11 BI	12 AL CP	13 TC	14 AL HO ED	15	16 TC
17	18 EN	19 AL TC	20 TC	21 AL HO	22	23
24	25	26 AL CP	27 TC	28 AL HO	29	30
31						

<b>NR</b>	<b>Natural Resources Commission Meeting:</b> East Lake Office First Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm
<b>TC</b>	<b>Tribal Council Meeting:</b> Bank Building, Dome Room 3rd Floor Every Wednesday at 10:00 am, every third Saturday - 10:00 am in the Bank Building Dome Room, and every third Tuesday (minutes review) at 1:30 pm in the Tribal Council Conference Room
<b>WS</b>	<b>Warrior Society Meeting:</b> LRBOI Community Center First Saturday of the month at 10:00 am
<b>HO</b>	<b>Housing Commission Meeting:</b> Bank Building, Law Library Every Thursday 5:30 pm
<b>GA</b>	<b>Gaming Commission:</b> Call for dates & directions Every other Saturday 9:00 am
<b>BI</b>	<b>Binojeeuk Commission Meeting:</b> Bank Building, Tribal Council Conference Room, every second Monday of the month at 10:00 am

Please note that meeting information is subject to change without prior notification. You should always call ahead to verify meeting schedules and agendas if you plan to attend.

DIRECT CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS		<b><i>LRBOI TOLL-FREE 1-888-723-8288</i></b>		ADDRESSES	
Ogema's Office	1-231-398-6823	Training & Development	1-231-398-9383	Administration Building	Natural Resources
Tribal Council	1-231-398-6845	Wastewater & Utilities	1-231-723-2309	1762 US 31 South	159 Brickyard Road
• Elaine Porter	1-231-398-6833	Warrior's Society	1-231-398-6720	Manistee, MI 49660	Manistee, MI 49660
• Pat Ruiter	1-231-398-6831	Bedabin Receptionist	1-231-398-6604	<i>Just South of K-Mart Plaza</i>	<i>Big Blue off M-55</i>
• Pamela Medahko	1-231-398-6849	Elder's Coordinator	1-231-398-6709	Health Clinic	Tribal Court
• Steve Parsons	1-231-398-6830	Enrollment Officer	1-231-398-6712	310 9th Street	3031 Domres Road
• Brian Medacco	1-231-398-6828	Commodities Department	1-231-398-6715	Manistee, MI 49660	Manistee, MI 49660
• Janine Sam	1-231-398-6834	Currents News	1-231-398-6872	<i>Above Child Care Center</i>	<i>In Newland Bldg</i>
• Tammy Kleeman	1-231-398-6835	Natural Resources	1-231-723-1594	Little River Casino Resort	Government Offices
• Israel Stone	1-231-398-6807	Little River Casino Resort	1-231-723-1535	2700 Orchard Highway	375 River Street
• Lisa McCatty	1-231-398-6719	Toll-Free	1-888-568-2244	Manistee, MI 49660	Manistee, MI 49660
Health Clinic	1-231-723-8299	Maintenance Department	1-231-723-7733	<i>Corner of M-22 &amp; US-31</i>	<i>At National Bank Bldg</i>
Toll-Free	1-888-382-8299	Housing Department	1-231-398-6729	Community Center	Public Safety
Job Hotline	1-866-556-5660	Member's Assistance	1-231-398-6864	1762 US 31 South	3031 Domres Road
Language Hotline	1-877-789-0993	Public Safety, Administrative	1-231-398-3413	Manistee, MI 49660	Manistee, MI 49660
Tribal Court	1-231-398-3406	Public Safety, Non-Emergency		<i>Just South of K-Mart Plaza</i>	<i>In Newland Bldg</i>
		Tribal Officer Response	1-231-723-6241		



Dear Tribal Family and Friends,  
I'd like to thank all of you for your support and appreciation of the Little River Currents since it started in January 2004. It's been a honor and privilege for me to be able to witness and share the Tribe's history as it happened this year.

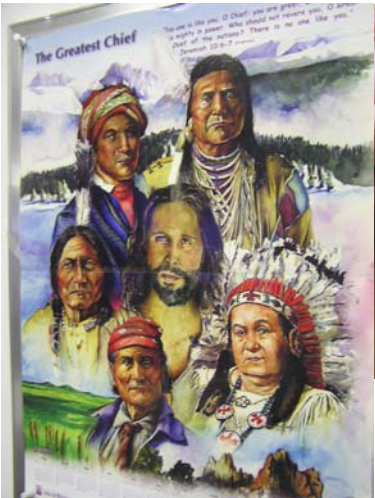
Although I will miss a few dear people, I am leaving employment with the LRBOI. I will be investing my time in other important endeavors like coordinating operations of an equestrian facility/resort, developing a publishing company to produce youth publications, and teaching a little Aromatherapy now and then.

Some of you may also know I live over 100 miles away from the Tribal offices so it's not too hard to understand my need to be on the road a little less and with my family a lot more. So with the utmost respect and gratitude I say farewell but not goodbye as I actively continue to serve our Tribe as a member of the Cultural Preservation Committee. Many good wishes and blessings to everyone, especially to the Little River Ladies (yahoo Campers!), the great friends I've made, and to my family. I love you all.

Melissa Zelenak

PS, below are some fun photos and here's my last quote for the paper, as told to me by the son of an LRBOI Elder.

“If you fight with a muddy pig it's hard to tell who the pig is”.



A wall hanging at the Great Spirit Church



The wonder of creation as the girls check out Nathan Burkhart's tiny toes.



Me at the Milwaukee Reservation workshop



Waiting for Buddy to get out of the locked elevator, don't push that red button...



Councilwoman Elaine Porter



Scenic view from a kayak near Indian Hill.



A cute puppy visits work.



The Commodities crew is glad to apply a new coat of paint.



Warrior Society members John Shepard on left, and Brian Medacco on right.



Marcella Leusby & Loretta Staff at a happy occasion.



A Tribal Member's pretty garden flower.

CURRENTS SUBMISSION COUPON

Please fill out the following coupon to cut out and mail in. Dedications sent in using this coupon and mailed to Little River Currents, 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660 will be published in the next available newspaper issue.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone number \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Birthday/Belated Birthday \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary/Wedding \_\_\_\_\_ Baby/Birth Announcement  
\_\_\_\_\_ School/College Achievement \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Write your dedication text out completely, for example: "Happy 60th Anniversary, Aunt Mary & Uncle Harry, April 1, 2004. From your family and friends." Dedications are published EXACTLY as printed in the box below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Office Use Only) Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_ Placed \_\_\_\_\_ Issue \_\_\_\_\_





# Little River Currents

## Dedications & Announcements

Mnoomni giizis

Rice Moon

August 2004

Vol. 1 / Issue 7

Sylvester J. Battice  
Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dad  
Our Love and Birthday Wishes  
to YOU!!  
Diana, Danell, Danette, Kelly and  
Families

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAD!**  
**AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
**SHERMAN MOORE**  
**LOVE, YOUR KIDS**

To Elizabeth Acre  
August 20th  
Happy 34th Birthday MOM!!!!  
Love ya Mom -- Brandon & Emily

**LITTLE RIVER LADIES LUNCHEON**  
**1ST MONDAY OF MONTH**  
**Next one: August 3rd 12:00pm**  
**at 440 West Restaurant**

**HAPPY 44th BIRTHDAY!**  
**LUCILLE HUNTER!**  
Love your family

Tribal Employee Birthdays for August

2nd	Steve Wheeler
4th	Jeremy Wilson
5th	Janeen Codden
8th	Kenny Pheasant
10th	Patrick Gilles
12th	Mary Bower
13th	James Pontiac
15th	Alan Snow
	& Robert Robles
20th	John Bauman
21st	Roberta Davis
22nd	Connie Waitner
24th	Tammy Carter
28th	Sandy Lewis
	& Angela Willis
29th	Kareen Lewis
	& Sara Flesher
30th	Deb Geno
31st	Julie Dixon

**Happy Birthday Dad!**  
**August 8th**  
**We love you so much and we appreciate all that you do for us!**  
**Love, Valerie and Joan**

*Happy Birthday to the*  
*World's Greatest Grandpa! August 8th*  
*Love, Nathan*

**Happy Birthday Tammy Carter!**  
**August 24th**  
**Love, Valerie**

Happy Birthday Jeff Chandler!  
August 4th  
Love, Your Family

*Happy 80th Birthday, Grandpa Battice*  
*on August 20th!*  
*Much love always, Danell, Doug, Dane,*  
*Reid, Noelle and Raegan*

Little River Band Natural Resource Commission Presents:

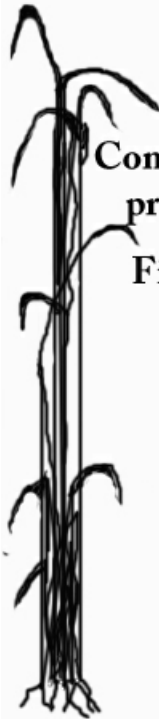
## Bimaadizidaa!

### Feast and Giveaway

Come and meet the men and women who diligently work on preserving our Tribal Lands, Waterways and Resources.

Find out how a traditional diet can enhance the quality of your life and the life of our future generations.

Dine on delicious traditional foods like Elk,  
Whitefish, Wildrice as well as Modern foods



### Traditional Giveaway

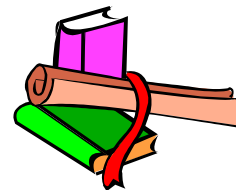
**When: Saturday, August 14, 2004 11:00 A.M. til 4:00 P.M.**

**Where: Intermim Casino Building M22 and US31**

I am working on my family tree and would really appreciate information on these people: John Pete, Gus Pete, Josie Pete, Julia Pete, Maggie Pete, George Memberto, Gertie Memberto, William Memberto and Sophie Bailey.

My mother was Alice Pete, her mother and father were Mitchell Pete and Gertie Memberto Pete. Gertie passed over in 1916 and Grandpa later married Sophie Bailey. My name and address is:

Marcella Leusby  
7435 North Skookum Road  
Luther, Michigan 49656  
Phone: 231-829-3771  
Email: leusbymarcella@hotmail.com



Congratulations to  
Dian P. Gonyea  
(Miller) for receiving  
your Masters  
Degree from  
Michigan State

University on May 7th, 2004.  
Way to Stick to it!  
Your Family Sweeps with Pride

IN MEMORY OF  
BRENDA AIKEN-VERDI  
October 31, 1955-June 25, 2004  
Daughter of Fred-Katherine Verdi  
(Pete). Mother to Jason & La Tara  
Verdi. Sister to Diane, Joy, Pauline &  
Fred. Preceded in death by her father,  
brother and a son. She will be sadly  
missed by family and friends.

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Manistee, MI

Return Service Requested

Little River Band of  
Ottawa Indians  
375 River Street  
Manistee, MI 49660

